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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 301121Z NOV 07
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH PRIORITY 0124
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1642

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 001458

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/MLS AND PRM
BANGKOK FOR REFCOORD SCHERER
HO CHI MINH CITY FOR TIM SWANSON
GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREF](#) [CB](#) [VM](#)
SUBJECT: ANOTHER UNEVENTFUL CAMBODIAN DEPORTATION OF
SCREENED-OUT MONTAGNARDS

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 1303

[1](#)B. PHNOM PENH 104

[1](#)1. (SBU) Early in the morning of November 30, 21 ethnic Montagnard Vietnamese citizens departed a UNHCR site in Phnom Penh by bus headed for the Cambodia-Vietnam border in the first forced repatriation since January 2007 (ref B). The 21 individuals being deported arrived in Cambodia prior to May 1, the cutoff date for Montagnard arrivals to be considered for U.S. resettlement if UNHCR denied them refugee status. The UNHCR had denied the 21 individuals refugee status and they had subsequently been rejected for resettlement in the U.S. following DHS USCIS interviews. The deportation was originally scheduled for October 18, but was postponed because 20 of the individuals still fell within a 90-day period to request a review of their rejection by DHS (ref A). That 90-day period ended November 22.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The deportation went quietly and without incident. When the bus pulled out of the compound, adults on the bus were not smiling but they were waving, and children in the back of the bus were smiling and waving. Cambodian police officers, an MFA official and an MOI official were also at the site, as well as a UNHCR representative and a reporter from The Cambodia Daily. A Cambodian police official and an MFA official accompanied the Montagnards to the Vietnamese border, where they were to be turned over to Vietnamese authorities.
MUSSOMELI